

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**  
**BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

HIST-6 NEW 5/77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
**CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
 59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
 (203) 566-3005

103

167/88/34/1

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	IF NR, SPECIFY <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION	1. BUILDING NAME (Common) <b>SWEDE VILLAGE MILL HOUSING</b> (Historic) <b>NORTH GROSVENORDALE MILL HOUSING - TYPE A</b>	
	2. TOWN CITY <b>THOMPSON</b>	VILLAGE <b>NORTH GROSVENORDALE</b>
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) <b>4 HOLMES STREET (11 HOLMES ST.) 167-88-34</b>	
	4. OWNER(S) <b>DESROCHERS, RONALD P. &amp; DONNA M., RR#1, BOX 311, N. GROS., CT 06255</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
	5. USE (Present) <b>Residence</b> (Historic) <b>Residence</b>	
	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No IF YES, EXPLAIN	
	7. STYLE OF BUILDING <b>Mill Housing</b> DATE OF CONSTRUCTION <b>about 1880</b>	
	8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chimney <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone Foundation <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____	
	9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	
	DESCRIPTION	10. ROOF (Type) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth <input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ (Material) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ridge parallel <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> Tin <input type="checkbox"/> Slate <input type="checkbox"/> Gable end to the street <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Ridge parallel to the street
11. NUMBER OF STORIES <b>2 1/2</b> APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS <b>50' x 30'</b>		
12. CONDITION (Structural) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated (Exterior) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated		
13. INTEGRITY (Location) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved WHEN? (Alterations) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No IF YES, EXPLAIN <b>See #17</b>		
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES <input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Garage <input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house <input type="checkbox"/> Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Garden		
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Open land <input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density		
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS <b>In a complex of originally identical mill houses just west of North Grosvenordale Mills.</b>		

(OVER)

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
	Mark McDonough	1986
COMPILED BY	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE
	NE	CO
	NAME	DATE
	Mark McDonough	1986
	ORGANIZATION	
	Town of Thompson, Connecticut	
	ADDRESS	



20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATION:

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

Eight-bay facade with entries in first and eighth bays. Sash generally 6-over-6. Flat molded entry hoods on small jigsaw brackets. Molded window surrounds. Plain corner pilasters. Molded cornice shows partial return.

Two gabled roof dormers with paired 4-over-4 sash. Side elevations have 12 6-over-6 windows. Rear elevations virtually identical to facade. Most common alterations include later siding, later or missing entry hoods, later sash, blocked-up windows.

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

These large four family houses were built about 1880 to house workers in the nearby Grosvenor Dale Company cotton textile mill (built 1870-72). Collectively, they are known as "Swede Village", since for many years they were occupied primarily by Swedish immigrants and their families. The Swedish presence in Thompson dates to 1881, when a Swede named August C. Pearson became overseer of carding operations for the Grosvenor Dale Company. The company was so pleased by his efforts that they asked him to recruit other Swedes from Rhode Island. When the local supply was exhausted, Pearson was urged to write directly to Sweden, then suffering from serious unemployment and a deep economic recession. In 1882, two passenger cars of Swedish immigrants arrived at the North Grosvenordale station, transforming Thompson overnight into one of largest Swedish-American communities in New England. The new arrivals were moved en masse into the houses of Swede Village, where they paid between 99 cents and \$1.27 a week to rent these houses. The buildings were sturdy and well maintained, but were without running water or indoor plumbing and had only kerosene stoves for heat (kerosene stoves are still a common sight in the Grosvenordales).

Historically, the buildings of Swede Village are significant for their association with a

SOURCES

Margolic, Patterns of Change in New England Textile Towns  
Thompson Land Records

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known     Highways     Vandalism     Developers     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal     Private     Deterioration     Zoning     Explanation \_\_\_\_\_

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
 CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
 HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM  
 For Buildings and Structures

<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>			
<b>TOWN NO.:</b>	<b>SITE NO.:</b>		
<b>UTM: 18</b> / - / - / - / -			
<b>QUAD:</b>			
<b>DISTRICT:</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>NR:</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>
			<b>POTENTIAL</b>

CONTINUATION SHEET #19 NORTH GROSVENORDALE MILL HOUSING - TYPE A  
 Item number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

prominent ethnic group in North Grosvenordale, and for their connection with the Grosvenor Dale Company, which dominated economic, social, and political life in Thompson from the 1860's until it sold its mills in 1942.

They are also architecturally and historically significant as part of a large and well preserved mill village surrounding the still extant 1872 mill. This complex includes the similar standard plan housing in Three Rows and Greek Village, and a variety of housing and commercial structures along Buckley Hill Road, River Street, Main Street, and Route 12.

The mill village ideal, widely followed by mill owners in northeastern Connecticut and Rhode Island, stressed the creation of a compact, easily supervised environment combining housing, retail facilities, recreation, and religious institutions under the shadow of the mill tower. This plan, similar to the "company town" system made infamous by Appalachian coal operators, was followed by the Grosvenor Dale Company in modified form until 1938, when it auctioned off the bulk of its company owned housing, including Swede Village. Many of Swede Village's buildings, set on large desirable lots on a hill above the French River, were bought by Grosvenor Dale Company agent, John A. Skedgell.